

U.S. Appln. No. 10/031,675
Int'l. Appln. No. PCT/NZ00/00136
Docket No. 0074-456224GWW

Add Claims 20, 21, and 22 as follows.

20. A fibrescope training apparatus according to claim 15 further comprising a body enclosure in which the fibrescope training apparatus is housed.

21. A fibrescope training apparatus comprising mouth and/or nose aperture(s) leading to a network of multiple pathways formed by connection together of a number of individual branch components, wherein at least some of said individual branch components are of a general Y-configuration comprising an entry end and at least one exit end, which may be connected together sequentially to form an expanding number of pathways in two or three dimensions.

22. A fibrescope training apparatus comprising an oral and nasal cavity component including mouth and nose apertures, an oral cavity including within it a protruding web which simulates a patient's tongue, said mouth and nose apertures leading to oral and nasal cavities and said oral and nasal cavities leading to and joining at an exit end from the oral and nasal cavity component, said exit end leading to a network of multiple pathways through which a fibrescope may be manipulated, the pathways formed by connection together of a number of individual branch components.

REMARKS

No new matter has been introduced into this application by reason of the claim amendments presented herewith. The only purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to correct the form of Claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17 and to avoid the prohibition in 37 CFR 1.75(c) against a multiple dependent claim serving as a basis for another multiple dependent claim. There is no intention to limit the scope of those

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claims either expressed or implied. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3).

New claims 21 and 22 are directed to combinations of features that are believed to be fully supported by the written description of this application.

It is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered prior to the first official action on this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

Claim Amendments

3.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to [either one of claims 1 and 2] claim 2 further including a component representing an internal organ, connectable to a branch component and comprising an entry passage that expands into an internal cavity.

5.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to [either one of claims 3 and 4] claim 3 wherein the internal organ component comprises one or more annular intermediate parts around the internal cavity which can be added or removed to change the size of the cavity within the internal organ component.

8.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 further comprising one or more cap components connectable to an exit end of a branch component.

10.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1 wherein one or more of the branch components comprises an aperture through a side of the component into the interior of the component between the entry end and the exit end, and further comprising one or more caps including a part adapted to fit in said aperture and an end comprising a symbol, object, or image which will face into the interior of the branch component when the cap is in place.

11.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to [claim 9 or 10] claim 9 wherein the symbol(s), object(s), or image(s) is/are asymmetrical.

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12.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to [any one of claims 1 to 11] claim 1 comprising a mouth aperture and including a protruding web inside the mouth aperture which simulates a patient's tongue.

13.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 including means for introducing a flow of air and a liquid to create bubbles or a foam within the interior of the apparatus.

14.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 13] comprising an oral and nasal cavity component including said mouth and nose apertures, wherein said mouth and nose apertures lead to said oral and nasal cavities and said oral and nasal cavities lead to and join at an exit end from the oral and nasal cavity component, and including a protruding web inside the oral cavity which simulates a patient's tongue.

17.(Amended) A fibrescope training apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 14 and 16 further comprising a body enclosure in which the fibrescope training apparatus is housed.